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REMARKS

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated or alternatively obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over United States Patent No. 4,273,137 issued to Pravoverov et al. The present invention relates to a medical electrical lead. The lead comprises "a lead body including an elongated insulated conductor and an electrode coupled to the conductor." "[A] non-rigid tether extend[s] distally from the electrode and include[s] a first end and a second end." "[T]he first end of the tether coupled to the lead body; and a tissue anchor coupled to the second end of the tether." "[T]he anchor include[s] a surface for receiving a push force from an insertion tool adapted to insert the anchor within a segment of tissue so that the electrode is positioned in close proximity to the tissue." "[T]he anchor consists of a bioabsorbable material."

The Office Action states that Pravoverov shows a lead with a flexible braid 2 and a contact tip 5. The USPTO concedes that Pravoverov does not disclose, teach or suggest an anchor that consists of a bioabsorbable material. Instead, the USPTO asserts that certain elements of the Applicant's invention are "well known." Applicant respectfully requests that the USPTO provide a reference that shows these elements and explain the motivation to combine the references.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,217,027 issued to Hermens et al. Hermens also fails disclose, teach or suggest an anchor that consists of a bioabsorbable material. Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

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Finally, as suggested by the Examiner, claims 17, 18 and 26 are rewritten as new claims 27-29 respectively. It is believed that all claims are now allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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